

# English Vocab for the 2016-2017 School Year

## #1 Identity

- a. the qualities, beliefs, or traits that make a person or group different from others
- b. Noun
- c. When I visited the town where my parents grew up, I felt more in touch with my identity than I ever have before.

## #2 Self (n/a)

- a. The evaluation of oneself as an individual, regardless of social position or standing
- b. Noun
- c. It was not until I started reading other people's autobiographies that I started thinking about the "self" and how it related to me.

## #3 Feeble

- a. Lacking in force or effectiveness; weak
- b. adjective
- c. My brother always gave feeble excuses for why he could not do homework each night.

## #4 Opportunist

- a. a person who takes advantage of a situation for personal gain, often by ignoring whether it is the right or wrong thing to do
- b. noun
- c. Harry accused Kellen of being an opportunist after Kellen kept a ten-dollar bill he saw another kid drop on the ground.

## #5 Ethical

- a. something that relates to moral principles or beliefs
- b. adjective
- c. The doctor was questioning what the ethical choice was when faced with a dying patient who was asking to cut off all medicine.

## #6 Dilemma

- a. a difficult situation or problem, often with two equally undesirable solutions
- b. noun
- c. Bobby faced the dilemma after seeing his friend cheat on the exam.

**#7 Commemorate**

- a. to pay tribute to or show respect for someone or something in a ceremony
- b. Verb
- c. The Redskins commemorated the anniversary of their last Super Bowl win by bringing the players on that team to the field during halftime.

**#8 Anecdote**

- a. a short, amusing or interesting story about a real incident or person
- b. Noun
- c. When I started at a new school, I heard a lot of anecdotes from students about events from previous years there.

**#9 Marked (“markt”)**

- a. clearly noticeable or evident
- b. adjective
- c. There was a marked difference in the candidate’s debate performance after he received so much criticism in the first debate.

**#10 Aloof**

- a. Not friendly or warm; distant and detached
- b. adjective
- c. John was aloof at the party, choosing instead to play on his phone for most of the night.

**#11: Defer**

- a) To put off or delay
- b) Verb
- c) The person deferred admission to college for a year, so he started school in the Fall of 2011.

**#12: Fester**

- a) To rot or wither
- b) Verb
- c) The wound festered on Jim’s foot for weeks after he punctured it on a nail.

**#13 Disheveled**

- a) Untidy; messy (usually about a person’s hair, clothing, or appearance)
- b) Adjective
- c) Cynthia looked completely disheveled as she arrived home from a very long day at work.

**#14 Indifferent**

- a) Having no particular interest or sympathy; unconcerned
- b) Adjective
- c) I watched the football game so I could be with my friends; I was indifferent about who would win the game.

**#15 Rights**

- a) freedoms that cannot be denied to any person
- b) noun
- c) "I know my rights, and I want a lawyer!" he said to the detective.

**#16 Prejudice**

- a) an opinion about a group, a race, or an individual
- b) noun
- c) The taxi driver was accused of prejudice when he ignored a Latino hailing a cab and picked up the white person standing right next to him instead.

**#17 Eccentric (p. 10 -- TKAM)**

- a. unusual; peculiar; unconventional
- b. adjective
- c. My neighbor is a bit eccentric; he owns twelve cats, only wears mismatched shoes, and talks with a British accent when he grew up in Missouri.

**#18 Malevolent (p. 10 -- TKAM)**

- a. having or showing a wish to do evil to others
- b. Adjective
- c. Professor Snape looked at Harry with a malevolent glare when Harry defeated Malfoy once again.

**#19 Assuage (pronounced "uh-SAGE") (p. 3 -- TKAM)**

- a) to put an end to whatever bothered/worried you
- b) verb
- c) I assuaged my thirst when I bought myself a Gatorade.

**#20 Fruitless (p. 43 -- TKAM)**

- a) not achieving the desired results; useless
- b) adjective
- c) Despite having friends in the movie business, John's pursuit of acting was ultimately fruitless.

**#21 Inquisitive (p. 65 -- TKAM)**

- a) Curious -- sometimes too curious
- b) Adjective
- c) My inquisitive friend always seemed to know who was going out with whom.

**#22 Quibble**

- a) To argue or bicker over something silly or unimportant
- b) Verb
- c) My siblings and I used to quibble over who could use the internet when we were younger.

**#23 Disorderly (p. 113 -- TKAM)**

- a) breaking down peaceful and law-abiding behavior; rowdy or unruly
- b) adjective
- c) The speaker attempted to subdue the loud and disorderly crowd.

**#24 Indicative (p. 106)**

- a) Pointing out or showing something
- b) Adjective
- c) The protests against the ban on refugees are indicative of the anger people feel about that rule.

**#25 Erratically (p. 123)**

- a) Unpredictably
- b) Adverb
- c) Since Jared was texting while driving, he was steering erratically.

**#26 Vehemently (p. 127)**

- a) In a passionate or intense manner; with great feeling
- b) Adverb
- c) I vehemently denied having stolen the gum; that is something I would never do.

**#27 Tentative (p. 186)**

- a) Unconfirmed; not certain or definite
- b) Adjective
- c) My fiancée and I set a tentative date for our wedding, but it is not set in stone.

**#28 Infallible (p. 187)**

- a) Never failing or wrong; perfect
- b) Adjective
- c) I have an infallible sense of direction; I don't even need to use my GPS.

**#29 Formidable (p. 213 -- TKAM)**

- a. inspiring fear or respect because of being strong, powerful, or talented at something
- b. adjective
- c. Muhammad Ali is considered one of the all-time greatest boxers because he defeated many formidable opponents.

**#30 Elucidate (p. 213 -- TKAM)**

- a. to make something clear; explain
- b. verb
- c. Mr. Abbas elucidated the new concept when he saw the confusion on his students' faces.

**#31 Recitation**

- a) the action of repeating something aloud from memory
- b) noun
- c) The student's recitation of the Declaration of Independence was flawless -- she did not miss a single word.

**# 32 Assiduous (not in a text)**

- a) showing great care and effort
- b) adjective
- c) The student's assiduous approach to his recitation assignment helped him earn a strong grade.

**#33 Credence (p. 9 -- *True Grit*)**

- a) The belief that something is true
- b) Noun
- c) Americans have little credence that the current election cycle is going to be any less messy in the months to come.

**#34 Industrious (p. 11 -- *TG*)**

- a) Diligent and hardworking
- b) Adjective
- c) My grandpa was an industrious, assiduous worker at the metal factory for 30 years.

**#35 Impudent (p. 36)**

- a) Not showing proper respect to another person
- b) Adjective
- c) Brian was being impudent with his mom, and he was grounded for three weeks because of it.

**#36 Commence (p. 42)**

- a) To begin; to start
- b) verb
- c) The soccer players commenced the practice as soon as the team captains arrived.

**#37 Undertake**

- a) To take on; to commit oneself to doing a particular task
- b) Verb
- c) I have to undertake a lot more responsibility now that I have been promoted at work.

**#38 Oblige (p. 106)**

- a) To require someone to do something because of a law, a rule, or because it is necessary.
- b) Verb
- c) The film's director was obliged to thank the studio for giving him the money to make his award-winning film.

**#39 Grit**

- a) The ability to work hard to overcome obstacles
- b) Noun
- c) A student with grit is often well-prepared for the challenges of college and the workforce.

**#40 Indicate (p. 152)**

- a) To point out or show
- b) Verb
- c) The tracks in mud indicate that a tall person walked by here not too long ago.